

When do we **NOT** form passive sentences?

We DO NOT form passive sentences with ...

1. ... **intransitive verbs**, for example:

An intransitive verb is a verb which does **not** have a **direct object**.

- to run, to come, to go, to arrive, to walk, to sit, to wait, to depart
- to die
- to cough
- to cry

This means you can only form an active construction like: He walks.

But you cannot use a passive construction as 'to walk' is not done to someone or something.

2. ... **state verbs**, for example:

A state verb is a verb which describes **how things are**.

• thoughts and opinions	to agree, to believe, to doubt, to guess, to imagine, to know, to mean, to recognise, to remember, to suspect, to think, to understand
• feelings and emotions	to dislike, to hate, to like, to love, to prefer, to want, to wish
• senses and perceptions	to be, to appear, to feel, to hear, to see, to taste, to smell, to sound, to seem

3. ... **the verb 'to be' + born**

The verb 'to be' + born is always in the past.

This means you can only form a passive construction like: She was born in 1999.